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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT The Steel Factory at Diosgyor

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SOURCE

1. In 1945 one of the largest steel producing plants in Hungary was located at Diosgyor. Until the introduction of the so-called "People's Regime", the installation was operated under semiprivate and state control. 50X1
2. This plant [hereafter referred to as Diosgyor] is now in operation and I have heard that it is currently Hungary's largest producer (August 1953). 50X1
[redacted] in 1945
it had seven open hearth furnaces.
3. Production figures for Diosgyor were never available even prior to the new communist state. However, among its finished products Diosgyor was the largest producer of steel rails for Hungarian railways. Three sizes of rails were produced, the 46.30 kilogram per meter [101.86 pounds per 39.37 inches], the 43.80 kilogram per meter [96.36 pounds per 39.37 inches] and the 42 kilogram per meter [92.4 pounds per 39.37 inches].
4. These rails can be evidenced on many of the Hungarian railway lines, each rail (on the outer surface) bears the name Diosgyor and the date of manufacture - example, Diosgyor - 1941 or whatever the date of manufacture may have been.
5. [redacted] that there was a very large and well equipped rolling mill at the plant. The mill which produced much of Hungary's structural steel, was also the largest producer of sheet metal and steel plates. The mill was able to press plates of 1½ x 6 meters and larger ones of 2½ x 8 meters. These plates were produced in thickness ranging up to 1½ inches.
6. The approximate number of people employed in 1945 was about four thousand. The plant suffered very little damage during World War II. In fact the main installations were never touched by bombs. The only serious damage incurred was the destruction of barracks and buildings which housed employees of the factory.

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- 7. Although it was reported on several occasions by radio that the Allies had critically damaged Diosgyor, the reports were erroneous for the destruction of the factory from the air was a physical impossibility:
 - a. Diosgyor (the plant) is surrounded by the Bukk Mountains with only a small portion of the installation (which is located in a small valley) visible from the air.
 - b. The main installations have been built into the sides of a mountain and are not visible either from the ground or the air. In approaching the plant from the west via rail or road it is impossible to see the plant or that it has been constructed in the mountainside until a person is approximately 200 meters from it.
- 8. With reference to location of the plant it is at the town Diosgyor, nine kilometers west of Miskolc. A branch railway line runs from Miskolc to the factory, primarily to haul raw materials to the mill and carry finished products back to the main line at Miskolc.

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